

REMARKS

Claims 12, 21, 23-26 and 30 have been amended. Claims 12-30 remain pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Regarding the claim objections, Applicants have amended independent claims 12 and 23 to recite "a securing element". This therefore provides antecedent basis for "the securing element" found in the dependent claims. Moreover, this amendment does not affect the scope of the claims as the singular recitation of "a securing element" includes, in an open-ended claim, one or more securing elements or at least one securing element.

Regarding the objection to claim 25, Applicants have amended its dependency to provide antecedent basis for "the securing clip". In that regard, claim 24 was also amended to recite "a securing clip" in lieu of "at least one securing clip". No change in scope has been affected.

Regarding the indefiniteness rejections of claims 21 and 30, Applicants have amended these claims to clarify that the securing element is manufactured by deforming the region between the at least one slit and a nearest outer end of the sliding bushing. For example, as shown in a preferred embodiment of Figure 6, the region 13 between the slit 14 and the nearest outer end of the sliding bushing 6 is deformed. (See also paragraph [0042]).

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit the claims are now definite within the strictures of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

In the Office Action, claims 12-30 were rejected as being obvious over DuCharme et al. (US 4,385,680) in view of JP 2001-254767 (JP '767). In view of the clarifying amendments made with respect to independent claims 12 and 23, as well as the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants' independent claim 12 recites a disc brake that includes a caliper. A sliding bushing is inserted into a bore in the caliper. A guide bar is guided in the sliding bushing. The sliding bushing is part of a loose bearing. The sliding bushing includes a securing element. The securing element is inserted into a recess of the bore such that it axially and rotationally secures the sliding bushing mounted in a precise position in the bore.

As can be seen from the preferred embodiments of Figures 3 and 4, the sliding bushing 6 includes a securing element 12. The securing element 12 is inserted into a recess 11 of the bore 9 of the caliper 2 in order to axially and rotationally secure the sliding bushing 6 in a precise position in the bore (see paragraphs [0036 – 0037] and [0043 – 0044]). By providing a recess 11 in the caliper 2, the sliding bushing can be precisely positioned in the bore of the caliper when the securing element 12 engages into the recess. This thus provides both axial and rotational securement.

In contrast, DuCharme et al. merely discloses a disc brake having fixed and loose bearings. However, the loose bearing identified by the Office Action is not formed in a bore of the caliper, but rather in a backing plate 70 of the brake pad/shoe (see column 2, lines 62-66 and column 3, lines 5-18). As can be seen clearly in Figure 2, the bushing 84 is arranged in the opening 85 on the ear 80 of the backing plate 70. Thus, it is not arranged in a bore of the caliper 76 (shown to the left of the bushing 84 in Figure 2). Indeed, there is a portion of pin 30 that engages in the caliper flange 44, but no loose bearing is provided there.

In view of the above, and as an initial matter, it is respectfully submitted that DuCharme does not disclose the feature wherein the loose bearing is formed by a sliding bushing inserted into a bore in the caliper.

More importantly, however, the deficiencies in DuCharme are not remedied by JP '767. As an initial matter, Applicants respectfully submit one skilled in the art of forming bearings in disc brakes would not look to JP '767 as it is not relevant to the present invention. Indeed, JP '767 merely describes an alternative manner to secure a brake "pad pin" in a caliper body. Such pad pins 3 are used to hold the brake pad. JP '767 merely eliminates the conventional use of a cotter key 4 that was previously known to prevent the pad pins from coming out of the pin hole with a retaining ring 6 that engages in a groove 1c. (See Figures 3-5). Thus, as an initial matter, JP '767 is not at all related to Applicants' claimed sliding bushing that includes a securing element.

Even assuming for arguments sake that the retaining ring teachings of JP '667 were to somehow be configured with respect to DuCharme in an effort to meet Applicants' claim language, such could still not be the case. Figures 3-5 of JP '667 at best would retain the pad pin in only an axial direction as the clamp groove 1c extends about the peripheral part of the pin hole and thus the retaining ring may rotate within the clamp groove. In contrast, Applicants' amended independent claim 12 recites the securing element being inserted into a recess of the bore such that it axially and rotationally secures the sliding bushing mounted in a precise position in the bore. Thus, even the combination of DuCharme in view of JP '667 would not render obvious Applicants' claimed invention.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit independent claim 12 is patentable over the art of record. Claims 13-22 depend from claim 12 and are also submitted to be patentable.

Regarding Applicants' independent claim 23, hereto Applicant have amended the claim to recite that the securing element extends into the recess of the bore in the caliper so as to axially and rotationally secure the sliding bushing. Thus, for the reasons presented above, Applicants respectfully submit claim 23 is patentable over the prior art of record.

Finally, claims 24-30 depend from claim 23 and are also submitted to be patentable.

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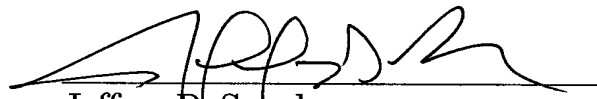
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit claims 12-30 are now in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #037068.56795US).

Respectfully submitted,

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